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Tips for Black Bear Hunters in Grizzly Country

Country

If you choose to hunt black bear in areas inhabited by grizzlies, you need to be able to distinguish between the two species. Killing a grizzly bear in the Lower 48 States is both a federal and state offense that can bring criminal and civil penalties of up to \$50,000 and a year in jail. Hunters are responsible for being sure of their target before they pull the trigger, and claims of self-defense are thoroughly investigated. Unnecessary killing of grizzlies only contributes to their decline, and may result in more restrictive hunting privileges in the future.

Grizzly Characteristics

- **The Distinctive Hump and Rump.** The grizzly's hump between the shoulders is always visible in profile. The rump of a grizzly is lower than its shoulder when the bear is on all fours, while a black bear's rump is higher than the rest of its body. This is sometimes hard to see from a distance.
- **The "Dished" Face.** A grizzly typically has a somewhat concave profile from between its eyes to the end of its nose, whereas a black bear normally has a more "Roman," or convex, profile.
- **Unique Tracks.** Compared to a black bear's tracks, grizzly tracks of the front feet are more square. If you take a straight edge and hold it across the track of a grizzly front foot, just in front of the pad and behind the toe on either side, it will not cross the toe on the other side of the foot. A black bear front track is more rounded and a straight edge will cross the toe on the other side of the foot.

GRIZZLY BEAR

BLACK BEAR

